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REMARKS

Claims 1-29 remain present in this application. In the present Office action: claims 1-3, 5-7, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,396,154 (hereinafter "Hikita"); claims 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,576,589 (hereinafter "Dreifus"); claims 26, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,296,391 (hereinafter "Hazama"); claims 4, 8-14, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hikita; claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dreifus in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,715 (hereinafter "Hayashi"); and claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Hazama. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15, 21 and 26 and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are allowable over the applied prior art. Applicants extend appreciation to the Examiner for taking the time to briefly discuss the rejection of claim 1 with Applicants' representative on October 24, 2006 and October 30, 2006.

With respect to the rejection of claim 1, Applicants submit that while Hikita discloses a surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter 22 (formed on a surface 21 of a daughter chip 2) that includes comb-shaped electrodes 221 and 222, connection pads P21 and P22 do not form a pair of bonding pads that are configured to conduct a differential (input or output) signal. Nor do connection pads P23 and P24 form a pair of bonding pads that are configured to conduct a differential (output or input) signal. That is, an input (or output) signal is applied between connection pad pairs P22 and P23 and an output (or input) signal is applied between connection pad pairs P24 and P21. Moreover, while the connection pads P21-P24 of the daughter chip 2 are disclosed to be electrically interconnected with internal connection pads P11-P14 formed on a surface of a mother chip 1, a distance between connection pad pair P22 and P23 and connection pad pair P24 and P21 is dictated by a length of the electrodes 221 and 222 (i.e., a length of the SAW filter 22) and not by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation between the connection pad pair P22 and P23 and connection pad pair P24 and P21. Furthermore, while Hikita discloses a plurality of external connection pads 12 that are connected to a lead frame 14 by a bonding wires 13, Hikita does not disclose separating a terminal pair connected to the connection pad pair P22 and P23 and another terminal pair connected to the connection pad pair

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P24 and P21 by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation between the connection pad pair P22 and P23 and the connection pad pair P24 and P21. More specifically, Hikita does not disclose what pins (terminals) provided by the lead frame 14 are coupled to the connection pads P21- P24 and, as such, cannot teach or suggest separating a first (input or output) terminal pair from a second (output or input) terminal pair by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation between the input and output terminal pairs of at least a first predetermined amount. Additionally, with specific reference to dependent claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that Hikita does not teach or suggest a separation distance that is based on a characteristic of an external filter. While of different scope, independent claim 21 is also allowable for similar reasons as those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 15, while Dreifus discloses a SAW filter that includes spaced contact pads 26 that facilitate external connection to interdigitated electrodes 24 of the SAW filter, Dreifus does not teach or suggest separating a first terminal (input or output) connected to one of the contact pads 26 and a second terminal (an output or input) connected to another one of the contact pads 26 by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation (that is based on a characteristic of an external filter) between the first terminal and the second terminal.

With respect to independent claim 26, while Hazama discloses a SAW filter having multiple inputs and multiple outputs (e.g., Fig. 9B), Hazama does not teach or suggest separating first and second terminals (differential input) from third and fourth terminals (differential output) by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation (that is based on a characteristic of a first external filter) between the first and second terminals and the third and fourth terminals. Similarly, Hazama does not teach or suggest separating fifth and sixth terminals (differential input) from seventh and eighth terminals (differential output) by a distance sufficient to maintain an input-to-output isolation (that is based on a characteristic of a second external filter) between the fifth and sixth terminals and the seventh and eighth terminals.

Additionally, Applicants submit that claims 2-14, 16-20, 22-25 and 27-29 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend upon allowable claims.

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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are now allowable and therefore the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney or agent.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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